

REMARKS

Claims 21-29 are pending in the application. Claims 21 and 27-29 have been amended.

In response to paragraph 3 of the last official action, Applicant has submitted a further information disclosure statement directed to the reference previously listed at #BB in the January 21, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement.

In response to paragraphs 4-5 of the last official action, Applicant has submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval red-lined versions of the drawings, wherein textual labels for the various elements have been provided.

In response to paragraph 6 of the last official action, Applicant has attached as Exhibit A hereto a revised Abstract. Applicant respectfully requests that the revised Abstract be substituted for the current Abstract.

In response to paragraphs 7-8 of the last official action, Applicant has deleted "optionally" from claim 21.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claim 21 over Reber, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 as amended herein is not anticipated by Reber. As amended, claim 21 requires (i) scanning a machine-readable code on a written transaction record using a scanner, (ii) extracting link information from the machine-readable code and obtaining and storing user input information, (iii) sending the link information (and information identifying the user) to the portal server, (iv) applying at least the link information to a link table at the portal server in order to identify a network address of the database containing records of the transaction and then directing the user from the portal server to the identified network address where the records of the transaction are accessed

from the database. The link table now recited in claim 21 is described in the specification as follows:

A link table containing network codes and associated network address information, for example, may be accessed to process link information containing only the network code. The link table associates the network code to a network address information to facilitate the connection between provider 600 and receiver 180. Link information may also be cascaded via the link table(s). Link tables may be located on or be accessible to the receiver 180, the portal server 200, or the provider 600. The machine-readable code 10 can also link the person directly to a specific Internet address without accessing a link table. See, Specification, p. 15, line 22 – p. 16, line 2.

It is respectfully submitted that the application to a link table at a portal server of link information derived from a machine-readable code on a transaction record, for the purposes of locating and accessing the network address of the database storing information about the transaction, as set forth in amended claim 21, is neither shown nor suggested by the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that all pending independent claims are in condition for allowance, and that all dependent claims are allowable because each dependent claim depends from an allowable base claim. A Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees due in connection with this filing Deposit Account **50-0310**. A duplicate of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 23, 2003

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Respectfully submitted,



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Exhibit A – Revised Abstract

Abstract

A method of commercial administration includes generating a written record of a transaction. The record includes a machine-readable code identifying the transaction and a link to a database containing records of the transaction. The machine-readable code on the written record is scanned, and link information is extracted from the machine-readable code. User input information is also obtained and stored. The link information and information identifying the user is received at a portal server, where the link information is applied to a link table in order to identify a network address of the database containing records of the transaction. The user is then directed from the portal server to the identified network address where records of the transaction are accessed from the database.